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**PROJECT FINAL SPEECH**

In the middle of August 2015 I found out that this project was awarded to us by the EU (European Union). I eagerly started working on and although some difficulties arose, which nearly caused me to abandon it, I continued with it , as I thought it was a worthy cause and I could see the positive effects that it could have on students, teachers and schools.

The three main topics of our project have been recycling and energy efficiency, improving teaching-learning process and fostering the entrepreneurial spirit. We have been doing different activities related to these three topics throughout the last two years. I am now going to briefly sum up some of these activities:

**1) Recycling/energy efficiency/renewable energy**

According to NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States), 2016 was the hottest year on earth since 1880, when record-keeping began.

These are the main activities we have been doing throughout the project:

a) To research recycling and waste management in our schools and homes in order to improve them.

b) To study the electricity bills and calculate our carbon footprint in order to implement energy efficiency measures and reduce CO2 emissions in our schools and homes.

c) To understand the importance of renewable energy by visiting a hydroelectric power plant and a wind farm.

d) To do a business project based on sustainable tourism after visiting the Eden Project and St. Ives.

Nowadays, nobody except ignorant or selfish (self-interest) people such as Donald Trump (the current president of the United States), question the fact that some human activities are contributing to climate change and global warming and, consequently, their harmful effects on human life.

The Earth’s atmosphere contains greenhouse gases that hold in the sun’s warmth. In this way, greenhouse gases help control global temperatures.

Certain human activities release additional greenhouse gases, upsetting the natural atmospheric balance. Increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases raises global temperatures

Recycling is very important because fights against the climate change:

a) If we recycle we use fewer raw material.

b) If we recycle we will produce fewer new materials and save energy. Manufacturing goods from recycled materials typically requires less energy than producing goods from raw materials. When people reuse things or when products are made with less material, less energy is needed to extract, transport, and process raw materials and to manufacture products.

c) If we recycle and save energy, fewer fossil fuels are burned and less carbon dioxide will be emitted into the atmosphere.

**2) Improving teaching-learning process:**

a) To make a list of open educational resources of different subjects with their main characteristics.

b) To make a teaching guide for the School Time Bank.

c) To share innovative methods as project and problem-based learning activities and flipped classroom, didactic strategies to deal with diversity, students with learning difficulties, school library involvement (dynamisation), and the school absenteeism.

**3) Fostering the entrepreneurial spirit and creating a mini business**

a) To set up a school mini company. Each school has been developing a business through the different steps and plans. This process has sowed the seeds of entrepreneurship in each participant and in the school itself. Each school mini company has been very interesting as they are all related to recycling, but I would like to give a special mention to Achim company, ManyGer, as their service is charitable and helps elderly people, a vulnerable segment of society which calls for a greater attention from national governments.

Both charitable and green (reducing carbon footprint) business operations are forms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), which has a shared value for business and society. The next generation of employees is actively looking for employers that are focused on the triple bottom line: people, planet, revenue.

b) To design a company based on sustainable tourism.

The project is over, but we still have something very important: sustainability. It means that we can continue doing project activities and improving initiatives put into practice in our schools.

I want to thank all teachers and students who have in some way participated in this project, and congratulate you because it has been a success; we now know and respect each other a little more, which is something very important, as we belong to a supranational organisation, the European Union. We hope that British students can continue taking part in Erasmus+ school projects. We live in an uncertain time in Europe and the world, but remember these two mottoes:

“Live, Love and Learn”, and “divided we fall, united we stand and are stronger”.

I wouldn’t like to say goodbye, but see you again whenever.

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